

A NEW HOST FOR *BRACHYMERIA OVATA* (HYMENOPTERA: CHALCIDIDAE): *HARRISINA* *BRILLIANS* (LEPIDOPTERA: ZYGAEINIDAE)¹

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ABSTRACT: A new host record of *Brachymeria ovata* from *Harrisina brillians*, a lepidopterous pest of grapes in the southwestern United States and Mexico, is reported.

The western grapeleaf skeletonizer, *Harrisina brillians* Barnes and McDunnough, is a leaf defoliating pest of backyard, wild, and cultivated grapes (*Vitis* spp.) and two ornamental plants, Boston ivy (*Parthenocissus tricuspidata*) and Virginia creeper (*P. quinquefolia*), in Mexico and the southwestern United States (Stern *et al.* 1981). *Brachymeria ovata* (Say), an unrecorded skeletonizer parasitoid, is recorded as a pupal parasitoid of over 100 species of Lepidoptera which encompass 18 families (Peck 1963, Burks 1979). *Brachymeria ovata* is widely distributed throughout North, Central, and South America (Burks 1979, DeSantis 1979).

Recently, I examined five specimens of *B. ovata* that were reared from skeletonizer pupae by California Department of Food and Agriculture, Biological Control Services Program personnel during skeletonizer natural enemy evaluation surveys in California (pers. comm. Villegas and Esser). Despite the rearing of approximately two hundred-thousand skeletonizer larvae and pupae from 1975 to 1983, only these five specimens were observed.

The rearing data is as follows: 2 ♀, Palo Cedro, Shasta County, California, 15 August 1978, emerged from *H. brillians*, B. Villegas; 3 ♀, Anderson, Shasta County, California, 30 August 1982, emerged from *H. brillians*, T.E. Esser. These specimens reside in the Biological Control Services Program's reference collection.

This data represents a new host record for *B. ovata*. The low level of parasitization indicates that this species is not an important component in the biological control of *H. brillians*.

ACKNOWLEDGMENTS

I thank T.E. Esser, California Department of Food and Agriculture, Sacramento and N.J. Smith, Fresno County Agricultural Commissioner's Office, Fresno, California for editorial comments on this paper.

¹Received September 15, 1986. Accepted October 17, 1986.

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INSECT FIELD DAY FOR YOUNG AND AMATEUR ENTOMOLOGISTS

The American Entomological Society, in conjunction with The Young Entomologists Society, and the Brandywine Valley Association, has scheduled an entomological field day to be held, rain or shine, at the Myrick Conservation Center of the Brandywine Valley Association on Saturday, June 6, 1987, from 9 am to 4 pm.

The objective of this event is to promote insect related interests and interactions, particularly among young and amateur entomologists of the greater Philadelphia area. Interested parents and teachers also are invited to participate. Registration is \$2.00. A map and additional information will be sent to registrants before May 15.

Please send inquiries to Ann Faulds, Brandywine Valley Association, 1760 Unionville-Wawaset Road, West Chester, PA 19382.

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“Because of ethical considerations, I request that my name be removed from co-authorship of the paper ‘*Acyrtosiphon pisum* (Homoptera: Aphididae), an aphid species biting man’ (T.W. Culliney and J.R. Ruberson, *Entomol. News* 97:225-226)”. Signed, “John R. Ruberson”.